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FROM THE PRESIDENT

In some ways, you can think of this season’s edition of The Path as a kind of travel visa. I write that because, looking over the various articles scheduled to appear in The Path, I was struck by how many of them focus on Nyack’s many ministries abroad.

In this issue, you’ll read about our outreach in such places as Vietnam and India. You’ll read about the Winterim trips many of our students took overseas. You’ll read about members of the Nyack/ATS family in Ecuador and Peru.

Of course, none of that kind of international ministry is accidental. It’s all a glorious and powerful illustration of one of Nyack’s core values: global engagement.

The Nyack community has never been and will never be focused inward. Everything we work for on each of our campuses is aimed at ministry. Specifically, it’s intended to glorify the Lord by taking His gospel – and sharing His love and compassion – to men, women, and children all over the world.

It’s important to note that our commitment to global engagement is nothing we came up with. It’s not even something our founder, A.B. Simpson, pioneered. It is our response to the Great Commission we received from Christ Himself through His Word. Since the church’s first days, followers of Christ were by definition global missionaries. They were world shapers and changers. They were global engagers.

We carry on their legacy.

Mike
GLOBAL TROTTING: WINTERIM RETURNS TO NYACK
by Kristy Johnson

For the first time in nearly 20 years, Nyack College is offering overseas Winterim programs between fall and spring semesters. Winterim began in 1972 as a series of mandatory interdisciplinary courses that were considered part of the fall semester. The theme of the first set was “The City.”

In January of 1973, the college offered its first overseas Winterim course, which developed into “The Free Overseas Winterim” program, providing free airfare to London for students who had spent five consecutive semesters at Nyack. This program continued into the ‘80s, with professors such as Dr. Marion Howe or Dr. Glenn Koponen teaching Fine Arts and Dr. David Turk teaching Literary London or Theatre.

Winterim courses were also offered on campus, and students were required to attend three Winterim sessions during their four years at the college. While the program soon became an integral part of the Nyack experience, it was discontinued in the late ‘80s because of the high cost and the fact that it interfered with student work schedules by lengthening the school calendar year. Though the program has been absent for nearly two decades, it resumed in January 2008 with courses offered in India, Israel, and the Philippines.

Scott Reitz, a 1995 Nyack alumnus and former head of Intercultural Programs at Crown College, came to Nyack in the fall of 2006 with the vision of bringing Winterim back to the school. As the head of the Intercultural Studies Department at Nyack and director of Global Service Learning, he has made that dream a reality.

“One of my goals, and the goals of the administration, is to focus on the service learning model,” Reitz said. By partnering with professors across disciplines and campuses, Reitz has initiated courses that introduce students to the integration of their academic disciplines with service to the poorest of the poor.

Joy Blanchard, a social work major who traveled to the Philippines, wrote home on the Intercultural Studies website, “While at times the poverty and the pain of the people here has been overwhelming, the programs and the people that we have encountered have given us hope. To know that the hands and feet of Jesus are at work in this place has given us a picture of what God has in mind for the people here that we have grown to love.”

Because not all students are able to afford these trips, the college has instituted a stipend for juniors and seniors with a 2.75 GPA or higher. According to Reitz, the purpose of this stipend is “to help students get to those places where they can care for orphans and widows.”

Stipend recipient, Michelle Wolfson, said that one experience she had at an orphanage in India was a life-changing one. Wolfson rode to the orphanage to celebrate and bring in the New Year. While there, she recalls, “I met a little child who I fell in love with.” Though Wolfson spoke no Hindi and the orphan girl spoke no English, the two connected. “She sat down on my lap and did not move the whole night,” Wolfson said.

Stories like these give Reitz hope for the future of the program. “We’re still very young, but we’re in a good place,” he said. In the years to come, Reitz plans on sending Winterim students back to some of the same sites, allowing Nyack to maintain relationships over the years. “That’s the goal: that these courses have a relational piece in which we travel—not only as students to learn and to serve—but we travel as friends,” Reitz said. “We have a legacy here at Nyack of Christ-centered global engagement and we are committed to seeing the legacy continue in this next generation.”

Repeat trips, such as the trips to Israel and to the Philippines, will continue on a regular basis while the program expands, incorporating new destinations and classes each year. This coming winter, there will be seven Winterim classes with professors and students from both the Rockland and Manhattan campuses traveling to Israel, the Philippines, Mozambique, Spain, Venice, Egypt, and the Dominican Republic.

The Intercultural Studies website, www.nyack.edu/GSL, contains more information regarding the costs and dates for each trip, as well as the course titles and professors who will be leading the trips.
ELIZABETH JACKSON, DEAN OF STUDENTS, REMEMBERED & HONORED

By Bob Dickson

For anyone who attended Nyack College in the 70’s and 80’s, the name Elizabeth Jackson is sure to stir memories because the woman herself was a stirrer of souls.

From 1947-1959 Jackson was on the mission field in Indonesia. While on furlough in 1959, she accepted the position of Nyack’s dean of women. In 1976 she became vice president and dean of students, a position she held until 1983, the year she went home to be with the Lord. In 1977, she was the first woman elected to The Christian and Missionary Alliance Board of Managers.

Jackson also taught literature and missions—courses that attracted students because of the obvious enjoyment and enthusiasm with which she presented the material. She interacted daily with the lives of Nyack’s students—both male and female. She was an encourager. She was a role model. She also never hesitated to tell the students in her charge what they needed to hear. Beyond the college, she was a role model for women and a much sought after inspirational speaker.

When it came to loving others, Elizabeth Jackson had a gift. Her influence on others actually began long before she came to Nyack. Even as a young woman serving in a Christian and Missionary Alliance church in Santa Ana, CA, Jackson was touching lives. Today, three decades after Jackson’s homegoing, one of those lives is touching others in her memory.

Dr. Barbara Underwood is an internationally known authority in the field of nutrition and the biochemical aspects of vitamin A, who retired from the National Eye Institute (NEI) at the National Institutes of Health in 1998. A past president of the International Union of Nutritional Sciences, she is credited even today for facilitating the NEI’s partnership with scientists and researchers in India and other countries.

Dr. Underwood is also a woman whose life was touched by Dean Elizabeth Jackson.

Recently Dr. Underwood gave a $100,000 gift to Nyack College to establish a scholarship in the name of Elizabeth Jackson. For Dr. Underwood, it was a gift in the spirit of the woman who inspired it.

“Elizabeth Jackson loved students,” she recalls. “She wanted to help them. I wanted to establish the scholarship so that more Nyack students could be encouraged and taught.”

Jackson’s encouragement of Dr. Underwood began early in their lives together. The pair attended the same church in California when Underwood was a toddler. Underwood’s parents sat under Jackson’s mother in Sunday School at the time Underwood was born. At age 4, she was the flower girl at Elizabeth Jackson’s wedding.
It was as a young lady at that same church that Underwood first learned that Jackson's husband, a C&MA missionary and pilot in Indonesia during World War II, had been captured and killed by the Japanese together with other missionaries in Borneo, Indonesia.

"Elizabeth didn't have children," Underwood says. "She got her degree at USC and then she went on the mission field in Indonesia. We saw her when she came home on leave."

Years later, circumstances would find the two women together again—this time on the East Coast. Underwood, a relatively new believer, was attending graduate school at Columbia University while Jackson was serving at Nyack College.

"We didn't know we were both in New York," she says. "But someone wrote to her and told her, so she looked me up. I was a confused graduate student at the time;" says Underwood, who eventually earned her Ph.D. in nutritional biochemistry at Columbia. "I needed to get away. So she gave me a weekend retreat at Nyack and that really encouraged me. "I didn't have a close relationship with my mother or stepmother and Elizabeth became a mother to me."

According to Underwood, Jackson was instrumental in helping her "get settled down." She helped her order her priorities. She helped her lay a foundation of commitment to excellence in her academic pursuits.

"The main thing was that Elizabeth listened," Underwood explains. "She let you talk. Then she'd go to the Bible and pray. She never forced decisions on you. But as she talked, she always took you back to the Bible for guidance." Jackson was that way with everyone.

"I saw her help so many men and women," Underwood comments. "Her life was exemplary. She exalted Christ."

Years later, Underwood herself would teach biology classes at Nyack for a season, an opportunity she credits Jackson for helping her pursue.

"Dr. Underwood has always had a heart for Nyack," says Nyack President Mike Scales. "Her service to our community – both as a teacher and now through the Elizabeth Jackson Scholarship will continue to make a difference in students’ lives for decades to come. She wanted her gift to honor Elizabeth Jackson by furthering her work. That’s exactly what it will do."

Underwood, now retired, lives once more in Southern California. Her ministry, however, is flourishing 3,000 miles away. The Elizabeth Jackson Scholarship will bear the fruit of an education for Nyack students for as long as the Lord tarries. Her generosity will reverberate into the future … just like the ministry of that scholarship’s namesake.

“There are so many things to say about the kind of person Elizabeth Jackson was,” Underwood says. She was a loving, godly woman. Everything she did was rooted in trying to help young people grow in their relationship with the Lord. She was one of those people who come along every once in a while who truly has the “mind of Christ” in her. She was a caring, compassionate, wise, and strong woman. She had this ability of accepting people where they were and in her non-judgmental way she would come alongside of you and gently encourage you to become more of who God had created you to be. Many, many people thank God for using Elizabeth in their lives, to show them that to be a follower of Jesus Christ is to live a life that is full of adventure and joy and courage in the face of adversity. She taught us all and those who were touched by her were never the same again.

“She was the kind of Christian we all want to be.”
A MISSION TO SERVE
AND...NOT FAR

by Kristy Johnson

Mike Vayda could never have imagined where his pursuit of God would take him when he graduated from Nyack College. With his new bride, the former Heidi Warren, a fellow 1987 graduate, Vayda embarked on a journey to a place where only God knew he’d be headed.

Accomplishments early on for the couple included starting a family and a new business. For 15 years, Mike was a communications consultant, specializing in event and media production. But when he took inventory of his life’s direction, he was dissatisfied with his self-assessment. “It was a scary time,” he explains. “First, because I realized I needed to walk away from the secure financial life we’d led for many years. Second, because I didn’t really know where I was going next! But after about six months of real uncertainty, I began to see that I hadn’t done a whole lot to make a difference in anyone’s life outside my own family, and I decided it was time to try and do that.”

Unable to fulfill their dream of starting an organization geared toward linking charitable groups in America with people with needs in other countries, the Maine resident and his wife were curious about what God was doing in other parts of the world. In March 2007, the Vaydas and their eldest of five children, 15-year-old Zack, joined a short-term missions trip with a church to a hospital in Fatehpur, India, where they helped renovate the building and connect it to the Internet. A renovated medical facility was not the only outcome of that trip. In Vayda’s words, “I came back changed, in the sense that I realized how small my world really was.”

His Nyack education taught him to “think bigger,” but his experiences in India became the practical application of caring for the needs of the whole person. It was an eye-opening snapshot of Nyack’s mission—service to Christ and the Great Commission. “The gospel is huge—and it includes meeting the real, felt, physical needs of people.”

With this new understanding, the English major began researching how he could continue to help that little hospital on the other side of the world. “I began to read about India. I was really intrigued by the contradictions of it being a rising world economic power, and yet there is still so much poverty and suffering. From conversations with a head nurse at the Fatehpur hospital, I learned that every year, one million babies die in India, just because their mothers lack access to basic health information. Most of these mothers are poor, illiterate, and live in a very repressive society.”

With business partner, Michael Miclon, he began to raise money to finance another trip to India. During the second visit, the two friends planned to create a DVD that would be made available to teach the basics of newborn care to inexperienced mothers. Vayda and Miclon returned to the Fatehpur hospital to do just that.

Considering the overabundance of annoying mosquitoes and monkeys, the snail crawl of traffic, and random episodes of failed electricity, the filming project required more patience and prayer than Vayda and Miclon had imagined. Still the two persisted. “India is in your face all the time. It assails you with people, color, smells, sights, and sounds...nothing can really prepare you for it. I think, after you get back from India, you find it will either leave you in a fetal position or get you so jazzed you realize you are experiencing life at a whole new level.”

In a matter of months, however, the perseverance of the determined duo paid off, as their completed DVD reached hospitals all across northern India. The project also drew the attention of a number of other humanitarian organizations. Since then, Vayda and Miclon have gone back to India to film a video for a microfinance group. They have also traveled to South Africa to film a video to help provide scholarships for orphans affected by AIDS.

With fresh vision and encouragement, Vayda and his wife decided to pick up their original idea of starting a humanitarian-type organization. Aided by Miclon, their vision became a reality in the form of NotFar.org. “The primary thing we want to do is to make it as easy as possible for people to act on their good intentions. We want to link people in America as directly as possible with the people who need help,” Vayda said.

One way Vayda hopes to advance NotFar.org is through speaking engagements to share the organization’s vision, ultimately getting more people involved in the global community the world has become. To learn more about NotFar, visit www.MiclonVayda.com and www.NotFar.org.
Quite giddy, on the verge of bursting into tears and racing around like a psychotic poodle, I bolted out the door and sped across the retirement village. I knew it was late, but honestly I had to tell her even if she was asleep; my flight was taking off early the next morning. It took a couple minutes for the 86-year-old woman guiding a walker, to get to the front door. I barged in almost knocking her over, breathless, “I’ve met you before!” A little perplexed Rebecca Bibbee listened patiently as my story unfolded.

This past spring break I visited my grandparents in Florida. As soon as I arrived, I was told that I had to meet an amazing lady. “She is the Mother Teresa of the community,” Grandma said. Rebecca devoted her entire life to serving in India. After breaking her hip, she was now finally home in the United States. “I wanted to die and be buried in India,” Rebecca said. She left her heart in India; I could tell by her stubborn look that she’d rather have stayed in the land that she loved. I could’ve sat at her feet for weeks and never tired of her life’s account. What was supposed to be an hour visit turned into a life seminar that God had prepared for me; our visits lasted for the next three days.

In January 2008, I was privileged to go on the Winterim trip to Northern India. As I shared my experiences with Rebecca, the more excited she became. “I’m jealous of you, and how you are just starting out. I remember back when I was your age doing the same thing. I’d do it all over again in a heartbeat.” I mentioned to her that our group traveled up to the hill station city of Mussoorie. There was also a language school that I planned on attending in the future. Of course I hadn’t had time to mention it before Rebecca stated, “I went to the Landour Language School for two years, where I learned Hindi.” My body froze. “Landour? That’s exactly where I want to go, specifically to learn Hindi!” We both smiled, God’s plan was evident!

The last night of my stay ended with a phone call from my dad, I related to him the time spent with Rebecca, zealous in my plans after receiving confirmation from the Lord of my purpose in life. My dad suddenly interjected and exclaimed, “Well, Jules, you know you’ve met her before.” I was taken aback, “What do you mean?” He went on to explain, “When we lived in Cincinnati, Rebecca spoke at the church and stayed with us.” Memories flooded back so quickly I dropped the phone. There I was a six-year-old child sitting on the carpet of the living room, at the feet of this woman who had no face, but I was entranced by her stories and my heart soared to go to India. Most importantly, the spark for missions was ignited in my soul. She was the first person who made me want to be a missionary. I snapped out of it and hung up with my dad. I’ve got to go tell her.

As I explained my testimony to Rebecca, tears spilled from her eyes, “You don’t know how many pastor’s homes I’ve been in and how many of their children I’ve asked God to raise up 10 percent, a tithe, of my ministry to be sown especially in those kids, to be brought back to India to continue His work. You are one of them.”

Julia Salo is a former pre-school teacher, now finishing an intercultural studies degree at the Nyack Rockland campus. She currently works as program director for the Asha House, a children’s home outside of Delhi, India, and will return there for language school in January 2009.
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Use the convenient business reply envelope in this magazine to become a member today or phone Michael D. Scales, Director of Development at 866.721.7946 or email MichaelD.Scales@nyack.edu.
Passing the Baton

by Dr. James Chin

Dr. Craig Ellison became known as a highly gifted, active and prolific Christian psychologist on the West Coast from the 1970s to the early 1980s. He was a professor of psychology and urban studies at Simpson College and Regional Director of the Christian Association for Psychological Studies/Western Region, where he worked with then unknown colleagues, James Dobson (founder of Focus on the Family) and Gary Collins (prolific author of Christian counseling materials). Craig also founded and directed the Simpson Community Counseling Center, which expanded to multiple centers throughout the San Francisco area. With numerous professional articles and books in the young field of Christian psychology, he, along with colleague Ray Paloutzian, published their research on the Spiritual Well-Being Scale, which continues to be the most widely employed, empirically derived instrument used to assess individual spirituality.

In 1982, God placed a burden in Craig’s heart to develop a graduate program to train and equip Christians to become professional counselors. Over dinner, a friend and then Alliance Theological Seminary (ATS) professor, Ravi Zacharias, suggested that God might want him to pursue that leading in Nyack, NY. Because prayer is Craig’s dominant guiding principle for leadership, he and his wife Sharon did what they always do to determine a next step—they humbly got on their knees and sought God’s will and direction. He subsequently accepted the invitation to return to his home state of New York to join the faculty of ATS and to continue his professional work and ministry. Craig persisted in bringing the importance and benefits of having a graduate level Christian counseling program at ATS before the board members, administrators, and faculty. In the meantime, he continued his professional career as professor, clinician, author, and researcher in the young field of Christian counseling. He developed an impressive network of tri-state urban pastoral leaders, and mental health professionals, through his national Christian radio show, “Perspectives on Personal Living.” Then in 1998, Nyack administrators agreed to add a Christian counseling program.

Since 1994, Craig and I had been working together professionally to administrate a set of Christian outpatient treatment centers throughout the Greater New York area. I also met with him periodically, as I was adjunct teaching for ATS and then at Alliance Graduate School of Counseling (AGSC) in the late 1990s. It was during these years that we nurtured a deep friendship. His leadership of the AGSC program proved that Craig is perhaps the hardest worker I know. He would doggishly plow through whatever forms, applications, criteria, criticisms, calls, meetings, and governmental red tape necessary to promote what he believed was God’s call on his life. Because of his guidance, the program has maintained a record of excellence academically, professionally, and financially. Craig handpicked every faculty member and administrative assistant over the past decade. In the early years, he wore most of the administrative hats imaginable. He even came up with marketing strategies and ideas for advertisements. ‘‘What hats he didn’t wear, he delegated to me to wear!’’

The results are best reflected in the success of our graduates. AGSC graduates, as a group, continue to perform every year on the national counselor examination at levels above average compared to graduates of other American Master’s degree counseling programs on almost all indices. In recent years, some of our graduates have gone straight from AGSC into doctoral programs in mental health. Several of our graduates administrate community-based service programs, some have started faith-based initiatives, and a few have contributed to professional literature.

Since its inception in 1999, AGSC has established itself as the fastest growing Christian counseling graduate program for national and international students in America and within Nyack College’s School of Human Services (formerly known as the Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences). As the mantle of AGSC leadership has been passed on to Dr. Carol Robles, former associate dean of the Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Dr. Ellison leaves behind a legacy that will endure for eternity.

Craig is heeding God’s call to the next chapter in his life. The Almighty has heard Craig’s prayers and God has honored his leadership style by blessing thousands throughout the world. Future leaders of AGSC (and perhaps this world) need to know and follow suit, “the prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective” (James 5:16b).

Go with God and our love, Craig and Sharon.

Dr. James Chin is an associate professor in the Alliance Graduate School of Counseling program at Nyack’s New York City campus.
Pastor and author John Ortberg relays the following story in an issue of *Leadership Journal*. “Some time ago, a newspaper in Tacoma, WA carried the story of Tattoo, the basset hound. Tattoo didn’t intend to go for an evening run, but when his (busy) owner shut his leash in the car door and took off with Tattoo still outside the vehicle, he had no choice.

“A motorcycle officer ... noticed a passing vehicle and something that appeared to be dragging behind it. As (he) passed the vehicle, he saw the object was a basset hound on a leash. ‘He was picking (his four legs) up and putting them down as fast as he could,’ the officer said. (He) chased the car to a stop, and Tattoo was rescued, but not before the dog had reached a speed of twenty to twenty-five miles per hour, and rolled over several times.” (As an aside, the dog was fine but declined going on an evening walk for a long time.)

Ortberg concludes the story by saying, “There are too many of us whose days are marked by ‘picking them up and putting them down as fast as we can.’ We must ruthlessly eliminate the hurry from our lives.”

That image of Tattoo is so like my walk with God – so busy doing and going and running, that I don’t have time for simply being. If we were honest with ourselves, many of us feel as if our service to the Lord looks like Tattoo the basset hound running alongside the car. Often determined by how busy we are for the Master, our daily, hurried, ineffective routines we carry out do not fit our idea of an enjoyable walk with the Master. And the frustration of the service rat race causes us to want to bow out from the evening walk for a while.

Try to picture this with me. Jesus has just been transfigured before Peter, James and John. Peter, James, and John behold His full glory. Moses and Elijah show up at the event to make it even more spectacular. Then to top it all off, the Father, for the second time, speaks words of acceptance, affection, and affirmation over Jesus – “This is my Son, whom I
have chosen; listen to Him.” After being in the affirming, affectionate, accepting presence of the Father, Luke 9:51 tells us that Jesus was ready to fulfill the specific purpose that brought Him to earth in the first place and He “resolutely set out for Jerusalem.”

Along the way, Jesus and His disciples make a pit stop. It’s in a village called Bethany that Jesus addresses the topic of hurry-free discipleship. The ever-detailed Dr. Luke is the only one of the gospel writers to record this particular exchange between Mary, Martha, and Jesus. The passage reads like this:

```
Luke 10:38-42
As Jesus and His disciples were on their way, He came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to Him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet listening to what He said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to Him and asked, “Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!”
“Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.”
```

So, how do we live without our leashes being caught in the car door so we can enjoy evening walks with the Master? There are two unleashing realities that this passage reveals for us. The first unleashing reality is this: Jesus’ presence WITH us means more than our service TO Him.

Martha and Mary were not ready for guests. Jesus and His disciples decided to pop in because they needed to rest. That would have been more than enough for Jesus and His crew. It was Martha who decided to overextend herself. If Jesus were really concerned about being served by Martha and Mary, He would have sent someone ahead of Him to tell them He was on His way. After all, in Luke 9:52, Jesus sent messengers ahead to a Samaritan village to get things ready for His arrival.

Instead, He enters Bethany, Martha opens her home, and He proceeds to recline while having a conversation with Mary, which Martha is completely missing because she has busied herself with the preparations. I don’t see anything that indicates Jesus asked, ordered, intimated, demanded, or insisted that a big fuss be made over Him and His entourage. His intention, I believe, was to have them enjoy His presence in their home for a little while. No pressure to do anything.

Jesus doesn’t need us to run around fixing things up and doing more for Him as a way of proving our devotion to Him. More important than our service to the Savior is the invitation to be with the Savior. He’s taken the leash out of the car door and is inviting us on an evening walk with Him. The second unleashing reality is a bit more challenging: Engaging His presence.

Mary, not oblivious to the work Martha created, wasn’t satisfied with just having Jesus sit in the corner. Jesus was in her home. She was in the presence of the Master. And before moving forward in serving, Mary determined she was going to engage His presence and hang on His every word.

In His reply to Martha, Jesus wasn’t reprimanding her for wanting to serve Him. He wanted her to see that she was trying to determine what He needed without engaging Him in the process. In contrast, Mary realized her marching orders would come as she took time to actively engage His presence before resolutely and effectively going out to serve Him.

Is serving Him more important to you than being with Him? Let’s go the next step. When you’re in His presence are you engaging His presence? Too often we simply settle for the omnipresence of the Master. It’s enough for us that He’s in the room while we run around doing our thing.

He wants us to engage Him so we can experience His manifest presence. This is how we get on board with what He’s doing. This is how the leash stops getting caught in the car door. This is how the beautiful evening walks happen and the hurried, fast-paced, stress-filled life of service ceases. Remember, the changing of the Tattoo lifestyle only comes when we take time to engage the presence of the One who gives life, and gives it more abundantly.

Rev. Kelvin Walker is Nyack’s campus pastor and a 1988 Nyack alumnus. A CGMA ordained minister, Rev. Walker served with his wife, Doni for more than a decade at Allegheny Center Alliance Church in Pittsburgh, PA.
IF THEY COULD SPEAK TODAY

by Dr. Robert Fetherlin,
Christian & Missionary Alliance,
Vice President of International Ministries
Looking back at the killing of seven Alliance missionaries in Banmethuot, Vietnam, what can we learn from this tragedy forty years later? And if these ardent followers of Jesus Christ were alive today, what might they say to us? If their voices could be heard, I believe they would be passionate about four values that can mark our service to God today.

**LOST PEOPLE MATTER TO GOD AND HE WANTS THEM FOUND** (Luke 19:10)

The love and care of these missionaries for the peoples of Vietnam, even lepers there, was driven by a passion to make Christ known to them by word and deed. The longing was for Vietnamese to hear, understand, and believe the liberating news about Jesus.

**EVERYTHING WE HAVE BELONGS TO GOD. WE ARE ONLY STEWARDS** (1 Chronicles 29:14)

Six people laid their time, talent, and treasure ... themselves ... on the line knowing that “unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds” (John 12:24).

**KNOWING AND OBEYING GOD’S WORD IS FUNDAMENTAL TO ALL TRUE SUCCESS** (Joshua 1:8)

Understanding that success in the truest sense is not tied to possessions, fame, and money, their pursuit was knowing God through His Word. As their natural selfishness faded through obedience to Christ, His selfless beauty was increasingly seen in them, exponentially increasing their passion to make Him known.

**ACHIEVING GOD’S PURPOSES INVOLVES TAKING FAITH-FILLED RISKS** (Hebrews 11:6)

Granted, it wasn’t safe for these people to be where they were in 1968. Nor is it safe for Christ’s representatives to live out their faith openly in many other places today. Yet we’re called to take faith-filled risks in living out Christ’s mission. And it’s only through our willingness to do this that this mission can be accomplished globally.

In a very real sense, while dead, the voices of these martyrs can still be heard. Their lives, their examples in living and in dying, speak loudly to us.

In 1975, an Alliance missionary was in the next-to-last helicopter to leave the American Embassy roof in Saigon just before the fall of South Vietnam. A huge concern was what would happen to the Alliance church family in Vietnam, then numbering about 125,000 believers. Would they even survive?

In 2006, I visited with Alliance church leaders of Vietnam in Ho Chi Minh City. When I inquired as to the size of the family of Alliance churches in Vietnam then, I was told there were more than 1,000,000 believers. Tears welled up in my eyes and my heart leapt for joy. That’s dramatic, eight-fold growth in just over thirty years! The church had not just survived, it had thrived! Compared to the size of the Alliance in the United States, this means for every American believer who is a part of an Alliance church, there are more than two Vietnamese believers who belong to the Alliance in Vietnam. The Alliance of Vietnam is now the largest family of Alliance churches in the world.

In a very real sense, while dead, the voices of these martyrs can still be heard. Their lives, their examples in living and in dying, speak loudly to us. They challenge us to embrace these four values laying ourselves on the line for Christ. And if they could see the incredible growth of the Church in Vietnam that’s taken place since their deaths, they would rejoice greatly, worshipping Jesus and declaring with one voice, “Yes, the way we lived and died for Christ in Vietnam was worth it ... because He is worthy!”

Dr. Robert Fetherlin is vice president for International Ministries at the U.S. CO National Office in Colorado Springs, CO.

To learn more about these outstanding people and the story surrounding their deaths, go to [www.cmalliance.org/wobweare/archives/martyrs.jsp](http://www.cmalliance.org/wobweare/archives/martyrs.jsp).
FAITHFUL WITNESSES

by Dr. Rexford Boda

It was on January 30, 1968 that an attack was made on the Banmthuot missionary compound in Vietnam by Viet Cong forces. The tragic event in Banmthuot had been foreshadowed in May 1962 at the same compound and leprosy hospital when Dr. Ardel Vietti and Rev. Archie Mitchell of the C&MA, and Daniel Gerber, a volunteer with the Mennonite Central Committee, were taken into captivity and never heard from again.

Six graduates of Nyack College lost their lives as the Viet Cong forces attacked the compound with grenades and gunfire. We continue to mourn their loss, but celebrate their faithful service and witness to the gospel. Those martyred were N. Robert Ziemer, C. Edward Thompson, Ruth Stebbins Thompson, Ruth Wilting, Carolyn Griswold and her father, Leon C. Griswold. Marie Ziemer, wife of Robert Ziemer, survived with serious wounds.

Three others were taken into captivity including Betty Olsen of the C&MA and Hank Blood of Wycliffe Bible Translators, who were to lose their lives in the jungle. Mike Benge, an American Development worker and an ex-marine survived and came to Christ through the steadfast example of Betty and Hank in their captivity.

These did not suffer alone, or die alone. Along with the missionary casualties, 12 of their fellow believers of the Radé tribe also lost their lives as martyrs for the faith. All of them were being obedient to the instruction of Christ in Acts 1:8: “You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

In Hebrews 11, we have the account of men and women in God’s redemptive history who followed the Lord’s calling in their lives. In their example of faith, they served as “a great cloud of witnesses” to encourage us to “fix our eyes on Jesus.”

They do not stand alone. They have been joined by a large multitude through the centuries of church history. The 20th century exhibits many accounts as servants of Christ were “tortured,” “flogged,” and “put to death by the sword.” It has been said that in the 20th century more Christians were martyred for their faith than in all the other centuries put together. With all the forces of evil and terror being unleashed in the 21st century, we can only wonder at what lies ahead as the Church moves forward in its obedience to the Great Commission.

Throughout its history, the graduates of Nyack College have been faithful to their call to give witness to Christ, even to the point of martyrdom. In 1893, after just six years of missionary ministry by the C&MA, 21 missionaries had lost their lives to the dangers and diseases they encountered.

What can we say to all this? The writer to the Hebrews expands on his review of the faith of the saints listed in his Hall of Fame with these words: “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us” (Hebrews 12:1).

Surely, this is an appropriate exhortation as we look back on the ministry of our fellow Nyack graduates and look forward to our service for our Lord in church and society. Let us by faith be strong in our witness to Christ and his Lordship in every dimension of our lives.

In our walk of obedience, and in our remembrance of those who have gone before, we may be confident that God has planned something better for us all. They, with us, through faithful witness and the power of Christ’s Spirit, “are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken.”

Dr. Rexford Boda, 10th president of Nyack College and Alliance Theological Seminary inaugurated in 1988, celebrated his 50th year class reunion at Nyack’s Homecoming.
GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

More than a generation has passed, yet the memory remains of Nyack alumni who gave the ultimate sacrifice of their lives. On Friday, October 10, during Homecoming 2008 weekend, a memorial bench was dedicated and installed near the flagpole at Shuman Hall at Nyack's Rockland County campus. This permanent fixture will honor:

Leon C. Griswold '19
Mr. Griswold remarked when his daughter Carolyn left in 1953 to serve in Vietnam, “You go in our place. We’ll stand behind you in prayer and maybe someday we’ll even visit you on the field.” He joined Carolyn in 1966, after losing his wife, and served with her in Banmethout. (From By Life or by Death by James C. Hefley)

Carl Edward Thompson '45
Nyack, NY
Theological Fishers of Men, French Indo-China Prayer Band – Secretary ’45, Foreign Missions Fellowship.
“Why art thou cast down O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope thou in God; for I shall yet praise him who is the health of my countenance, and my God.” (Psalm 42:11)

Ruth H. (Stebbins) Thompson ’46
El Cerrito, Calif.
Missionary Logicians, Orchestra ’43, ’44, ’46, Indo-China Prayer Band Secretary ’44, Vice-President ’46, Missionary Editor of Missionarian ’46, Student Council Secretary – Treasurer ’46, F.M.F, Vice-President of Spring Missionary Committee ’46, Congress of Bands Speaker – French Indo-China.
“See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it. I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.” (Isaiah 43:19)

Ruth M. Witting ’48
Cleveland, OH
Missionary South America Prayer Band…Jewel Gatherers Brooklyn Teacher.
“In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” (Proverbs 3:6)

Carolyn R. Griswold ’49
White Plains, NY
Christian Education Africa Prayer Band…Chorus…Student Council…Congress of Bands, Speaker…Missionary Committee, Vice President.
“As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the Lord is tried; He is a buckler to all those that trust in Him.” (Psalm 18:30)

Eleanor Ardel Vietti, M.D. ’48
Houston, TX
Ardel Vietti was a twin, born on November 5, 1927 in Ft. Worth, TX. Ardel attended Rice Institute, Nyack Missionary College (one summer), and attended medical school at the University of Texas. Following her residency, she applied for foreign service with the C&MA and was certified for appointment to the Banmethuot Leprosarium in Vietnam.

Betty Ann Olsen ’62
New York, NY
Missionary
Betty Ann Olsen was born to missionary parents in Bouake, Ivory Coast of Africa. She received her nursing degree from Methodist Hospital, Brooklyn, N.Y. in 1956 and graduated from Nyack Missionary College in 1962.

Details on the martyrdom of these Nyack alumni and the 1968 Tet Offensive can be found in the following resources:
Visit www.nyack.edu/homecoming.
AN AUTUMN MEMORIAL DAY

by Bob Dickson

In the courtyard outside of Shuman Hall on Nyack’s Rockland County campus you will find a stone bench. Placed lovingly on the most picturesque spot on the Nyack campus, it overlooks the college and the community; its view encompasses the Hudson River on its trek southward.

On the bench you will read nine names etched into the rock just beneath the words, “Gone But Not Forgotten.” The names belong to Nyack alumni, each of whom gave the last full measure of their lives for the cause of Christ. They are Nyack’s beloved Vietnam martyrs. Seven were killed in 1968: Nathaniel Robert Ziemer (’41), Ruth Wilting (’48), Carl Edward Thompson (’45) and Ruth (Stebbins) Thompson (’46), Leon Griswold (’19), Carolyn Griswold (’49) and Betty Ann Olsen (’62). Archie Mitchell (’44) and Dr. Ardel Vietti (’48) were taken captive in 1962 and have never been found.

The bench was placed in their honor during Homecoming 2008. Family members came to witness the bench dedication. They were on hand to hear the local color guard honor them with a five-gun salute. The rifle shots echoed over the Hillside and across campus. Every soul on campus that day must have heard. They all felt the impact.

For the martyrs whose lives and deaths have generated such an impact on two sides of the ocean, it was a fitting tribute.

“I remember watching the United States leave Vietnam in 1975,” said Christian and Missionary Alliance Vice-President of International Ministries Dr. Bob Fetherlin as he addressed those gathered at the dedication ceremony. “I remember asking, ‘How will the church do after we leave?’ At the time, there were 125,000 believers there. By 2006, there were over a million believers associated with Alliance churches in Vietnam. God has done exceedingly beyond anything [these martyrs] could have asked or even imagined. That’s why they went to Vietnam.”

U.S. Navy Rear Admiral Tim Ziemer (’65) recalled the horror of the attack on the medical/missionary facility where his parents served. His mother, Marie Ziemer, endured 18 hand grenade wounds, and escaped with her life. She alone lived to tell the story.

“She was taken off the compound and held prisoner,” said Admiral Ziemer, who was a Nyack student when the attack occurred. “They left my mom on the side of the road because they thought she was going to die.”

The martyrs were not unwitting victims. They knew the risks. They answered the protests from concerned family members. But God was calling.

“Carolyn latched onto missionaries from a young age,” said Bob Griswold, her younger brother and son of Leon. “By the time she was 8 or 9 years old she had made a commitment to go to French Indo China (Vietnam). Her focus was singular … she never wavered. There was never any question.”

Forty years have proven God’s faithfulness. The family members Nyack lost are in heaven. The earthly ministry they gave their lives to pursue, meanwhile, is thriving.

“The church has always grown under persecution,” said Nyack president Dr. Michael G. Scales. “The blood of the martyrs has always been the seed of the church. Their lives and deaths changed lives in Vietnam for eternity. They still do. Their memories inspire us here as well.”

Ruth Gibbs, the niece of Bob and Marie Ziemer, believes honoring the martyrs is about more than the past.

“It’s important today,” she said. “It’s a great challenge to Nyack’s students. They should hear this story. These kinds of missionary biographies should be required reading.”

Thomas Stebbins, younger brother of Ruth Thompson and brother-in-law to Ed Thompson, knows firsthand the impact of those stories. His daughter accepted Christ when she learned of her aunt and uncle’s martyrdom. He’s seen the Thompson’s son, David, find a missionary purpose in its wake – he now heads up a missionary hospital in Gabon, West Africa. He’s seen the Thompson’s granddaughter return to serve in the very mission field in Cambodia where the Thompsons once labored. He’s seen the tribal people in Vietnam come to Christ.

“Ruth and Ed’s death in Vietnam was the climax of their wonderful missionary career. I’ve said many times that they impacted many more people in their deaths than they did in their lives.”

Said Ziemer in his address to the student body during the Founder’s Day Chapel service: “They weren’t superheroes. They were ordinary people committed to Christ … love and suffering are twin pillars of the gospel. Who is the church? Look at the person next to you. It’s us. God is calling us. He is calling you.”
Juan Picart can sing. He can sing so well he has performed on some of New York City’s biggest stages. Lincoln Center, Rockefeller Center. Carnegie Hall.

His ringing tenor has moved audiences to tears in churches, on campuses, and in concert halls—both in and outside the United States. But don’t call Juan Picart a singer. Call him a servant. Call him a child of God. Call him a minister.

“My singing is not for my benefit,” he says. “I want to use that gift to glorify God and to minister. When I sing, I don’t see people. I just see my Lord.”

Juan graduated from Nyack’s Manhattan campus in May 2007 earning a music degree with a concentration in voice. He was 53 years old.

For most of his life, he didn’t even know he could sing because for most of his life, he was in prison. The first prison was a three-year POW experience in Vietnam. The second was a prison he built himself.

“I joined the army in 1969,” he says. “I was underage, but demand for soldiers was high, so no one really asked any questions. I joined the 82nd Airborne in Fort Bragg and trained for Green Beret Special Services.”

Juan spent nine and a half months running missions in Vietnam before he was captured. He was taken when his chopper was shot down during a night mission. Most of Juan’s crew died in the crash. Juan survived to spend the next year-and-a-half being marched sporadically throughout the jungle.

“They moved me around a lot,” he says. “I was injured, I was hardly clothed, and I was exposed to the elements. After 18 months they dumped me on the road, blindfolded with my hands tied behind my back.”

Juan came home in 1972. But he was not the same. “When my mother opened her door, the first thing she said was, ‘I lost my son,’” he says. “I wasn’t looking at her. I was looking through her. I had a lot of trouble adjusting to life at home.”

The walls of Juan’s second prison were drugs and alcohol. For 22 years, he wrestled with addiction. “I was slowly committing suicide,” he says. “And then, after being kicked out of a shelter in New Jersey for drugs, I heard a hymn sung in the street. I just stood there and cried. I was crying out to the Lord, ‘If you are real, please help me or let me die.’”

Juan spent the next two years on the streets of New York and New Jersey, but he was already becoming a new person. At the Salvation Army Veteran’s Center in Queens, NY, Juan met a caseworker who happened to hold a degree in divinity. He began to hear the Word of God.

“My soul became a sponge for the Word,” Juan says. “I attended the Bible study in the shelter every Tuesday. I started going to church.”

In church is where Juan found his salvation—and his gift. During corporate worship, his voice rang out. People noticed. They urged him to join the choir.

After about a year, Juan was performing solos. He was also sharing his testimony. It was during this time that Carlos and Miriam Velez, professors at Nyack’s Manhattan campus, heard him sing. They encouraged him to pursue his degree.

“Through the generosity of Nyack, I got my degree in music,” he says. “But really, I went to Nyack to hear about God and His Word.”

Today, Juan uses his voice, and his story, to glorify His Lord and to build His church.

“I’ve seen too much pain and tragedy in my life to join a club because everybody else is doing it,” he says. “But the Body of Christ is not a club. It’s the power that keeps the world going.

“When I share my story, I don’t want to focus on my fight as a POW I want it to be about my fight for the Lord. That’s what I want it to reveal.”
CAMPUS NEWS

GRADUATION

THE 125TH GRADUATION CEREMONY

Picture a young girl clinging to her mother and small sisters as they arrive on Ellis Island after a full month at sea since departing Taiwan. Imagine them hearing the sound of people speaking but not understanding a word of what was spoken...English. A foreign language. Fear and trepidation were their companions en route to this foreign land but so were hope and dreams.

It was 1961 and eight-year-old Elaine L. Chao was about to cross the threshold from a world ravaged by China’s civil war to a land of new beginnings and a future bright with promise. Little could she have known that she was embarking on a path to greatness starting with her first step onto the soil of “the land of the free and the home of the brave.”

Courage was not the only thing the Chao family needed. The three years that Ruth Mulan Chu Chao and her three daughters were separated from her husband were not easy. But it was because of James S.C. Chao’s desire to build a better life for his family that they agreed to endure the hardship as he tirelessly worked three jobs so that he could save enough money to bring his wife and children to be with him—in the land of opportunity where dreams become realities. He was setting the stage for a drama with outcomes far beyond what they could fathom.

More than four decades later, Elaine Chao united with her father again. This time they were on a stage receiving honorary doctorates at the 125th anniversary year Commencement exercises for Nyack College and Alliance Theological Seminary. The two have been honored numerous times. As recently as 2005, the father and daughter were fittingly awarded the Medal of Honor at Ellis Island where their version of “the American Dream” began.

Elaine Chao, far from her days of battling language and cultural barriers, is an accomplished Harvard University-educated woman with a long record of service in the corporate and political arenas and served our nation as the 24th U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao, the first Asian American woman to do so.

WHERE DREAMS ARE HONORED

Nearly 600 men and women received undergraduate and graduate degrees during the quasquicentennial Nyack College Commencement at Westchester County Center in White Plains, NY. Valedictorian for the class of 2008 was Joan Taylor, a New York City campus student who maintained a 4.0 GPA. The summa cum laude grad, who majored in social work, is Program Director of Hannah House Women’s Life Center on Long Island, NY.

Three honorary doctorates were presented during Nyack’s 125th graduation. U.S. Secretary of Labor Chao and her father, Dr. James S. C. Chao, a member of an Alliance church in Westchester County were awarded the Doctor of Letters. Mr. Ronald E. Eastman, chairman of the Nyack/ATS Board of Trustees received the Doctor of Divinity. Dr. Eastman’s honor was kept a secret with the help of his family when he arrived for a special luncheon during the pre-commencement weekend, honoring his role as a philanthropic leader serving at Nyack as a Board member since 1985 and as Chairman of the Board since 1995.
CAMPUS NEWS ARTS

40TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION OF THE FINE PRINT

The 40th anniversary edition of Nyack College’s journal of literature and fine arts, The Fine Print, was published in the spring with selected works from the past 40 years in addition to new works. Nyack’s premier literary forum features poetry, short fiction, essays, photography and fine art created by students, faculty, and staff and is student-edited. Submissions are accepted during the fall and spring semesters each year.

The 2008 editorial staff of The Fine Print was Joshua Peterson, editor; Jen Stuck, assistant editor; and Anna Notley, art editor. Other staff members on this anniversary edition were Laura Davis, Janelle Jordan, Jordan Kio, and Aaron Newcomb. Dr. Jonathan Gates is the faculty advisor. Philip Reichle is the typesetter.

CAROL AND CANDLELIGHT 2008: A 60TH ANNIVERSARY

The Nyack Rockland School of Music showcased its 60th annual Carol and Candlelight program on December 7 in Pardington Hall. Christmas carols and seasonal music featured the Nyack College Women’s Chorale, the Handbell Choir, and the Brass Ensemble.

Dr. Glenn Koponen, dean of the School of Music, who came to Nyack in 1967 as a part-time instructor, provided musical direction. He was joined by Nyack Music Department alumna and current adjunct professor, Jennifer Scott, who directs the Handbell Choir and Women’s Chorale.

Concluding with its deeply moving candlelight service, this tradition since 1948 continues to draw campus and Nyack community residents.

HISTORIC CHORALE CONCERT AT LINCOLN CENTER’S AVERY FISHER HALL

Nyack’s milestone anniversary year was celebrated with combined School of Music student and faculty performers from the Rockland County and New York City campuses to form the 125th Anniversary Chorale for a concert on the stage of Avery Fisher Hall in New York City’s world-renown Lincoln Center. Concert directors were music professors Dr. Sue Talley, Mr. Colin Fowler, and Mr. Joel Jameson. The April 16 program featured contemporary, sacred, and classical music sung by the 150-voice Chorale. Dr. Glenn Koponen, who is dean of Nyack’s School of Music, welcomed the audience.

A pre-concert Presidential Reception was held at the nearby American Bible Society’s Museum of Biblical Arts (MOBIA). President Michael G. Scales was joined by New York City pastors, Nyack College Board of Trustees, administrators, government officials, faculty, alumni, and other Nyack supporters. During the reception, guests were entertained by classical guitarist, Carlos Cuestas (New York City School of Music student). The exquisite “Realms of Faith Medieval Art” exhibition from the Walters Art Museum” in Baltimore, MD was on display.
ECUADOR/ PERU MISSIONS TRIP

Dr. Ed Stuart, Intercultural Studies and Missiology professor in the College of Bible and Christian Ministry, along with his wife, Professor Sally Stuart, from Modern Languages and Linguistics in the College of Arts & Sciences led six Nyack and ATS students on an 18-day missions trip to Ecuador and Peru. The students partnered with local churches and shared the love of Christ with the elderly, special needs children, and residents of a women's halfway house. Their service-learning experience gave them opportunities to help children with homework, conduct a vacation bible school, and share personal testimonies in youth cell groups and church services.

STUDY TOUR IN TURKEY

In May, 27 Nyack College and ATS students from the NYC and Rockland campuses traveled to Turkey for a 12-day study program. They were led by four faculty members, Dr. Steven Notley, Dr. Cleo Robertson, Professor Amy Davis and Professor Alfredo Cid. They were joined by some participants from outside of the institution, including seven Christians from China. The trip “In the Footsteps of Paul: To the Ends of the Earth” traced the growth of Christianity from Antioch to Byzantium (modern day Istanbul) as it followed the journeys of Paul and the expansion of the Church into Asia Minor. Students had the opportunity to meet with local Christians to hear about the current challenges that face the Church in Turkey today.

ATS PUERTO RICO STUDENTS TRAVEL TO SPAIN

Seminario Teolóógico de Puerto Rico (Alliance Theological Seminary, Puerto Rico branch campus) hosted a study trip to La Coruña, coordinated with Proyecto Finisterre, Inc, a missionary organization operating in Spain and Puerto Rico. There are 7,400 towns out of 8,022 with no Christian presence in Spain.

The trip consisted of 13 days in Galicia, a northwestern province of Spain, where students took a course on “Ministry in the Post Modern World” taught by Dr. Julio Aponte, ATS –PR Executive Director, along with guest speaker, Pedro Jones. The trip offered students the opportunity to understand the Spanish culture for effective evangelizing and postmodernism reflected in Spanish thought, society, and art. In addition to missions outreach with a local church and a missions organization, they visited the Santiago de Compostela Cathedral, the oldest Catholic Cathedral in Spain.

NYACK STUDENTS AT AMERICAN COLLEGE HEALTH CONFERENCE IN FLORIDA

Proposals for posters by Alejandra Roma (psychology major) and Daniel Yanez (cross-cultural/communications major) were evaluated and approved by the American College Health Association (ACHA) to be presented at the annual meeting in this past June. This marks the first time that Nyack students have participated in an event of such magnitude with selected universities such as Columbia University, Harvard University, Princeton University, and Yale University.

“DO SOMETHING AWARD” TO STUDENT ANTI-SMOKING ADVOCATE

Nyack communications major and anti-tobacco activist, Chad Bullock, won the 2008 “Do Something” Award, presented at the tenth annual Teen Choice Awards on the Fox Channel network in August. Bullock, a 19-year-old Durham, NC native, won the grand prize of $100,000 to support his cause. He was motivated to wage a war against smoking by the death of his grandfather from lung cancer. In addition to nationwide speaking engagements, he has worked with political leaders, major companies, and other teens to advance his efforts.

CHILDREN’S LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST FORUM

Early childhood education majors attended the Children’s Legislative Breakfast Forum this past spring hosted by Childcare Resources of Rockland and the Rockland Children’s Advocacy Network. The forum addressed early childhood and school age care and educational services in Rockland County. In addition to nearly 100 early childhood professionals, elected government officials in the audience were New York State Senator Thomas Morahan, Assemblywoman Ellen Jaffe, and Assemblyman Kenneth Zebrowski, who heard students like Nyack’s Aimee Jimenez speak about her dedication to young children and her career aspirations.
WELCOME MAT SPREAD FOR CAMPUS VISITORS

Dr. Kim Sunghae Cho, president of Hansei University in Seoul, Korea was welcomed to the Rockland County campus recently along with several colleagues and associates from Full Gospel United Church of New York in Flushing, NY. Nyack was on a short list of other American Christian colleges Dr. Cho visited during her fall visit to the U.S. An exchange of gifts between the Hansei University and Nyack College presidents, Nyack administrators and staff viewed a video about the university and its 3,500 students who are prepared for global leadership and world evangelism. The group toured the Nyack campus of the college and the seminary before enjoying a catered luncheon.

President Cho is the wife of the Dr. David Yonggi Cho, pastor of the Yoido Full Gospel Church, known as the world’s largest congregation, where seven Sunday worship services are held for its more than 800,000 members.

NYACK RECEIVES AWARD FOR TRAINING ESL VOLUNTEERS

The air was electric with anticipation as the congregation, family, and friends of the Brooklyn Tabernacle celebrated the accomplishments of 131 GED graduates and the dozens of other students served by the Downtown Learning Center (DLC), an education outreach. The Downtown Learning Center honored Nyack College’s ESL Department and the Department of Modern Language and Linguistics, Division of Liberal Arts and Sciences, by presenting Associate Professor Peg Bowen, Director of ESL, with a 2008 award “in appreciation for the department’s dedication and contribution to the intellectual and spiritual growth of the tutors and students of the Downtown Learning Center.” The award, presented by DLC Director Joni Schwartz, recognized Nyack’s commitment to training volunteers in faith-based organizations that teach English to speakers of other languages.

NEW YORK CITY CAMPUS HOSTS CELT 2008

On April 2, 2008, Christian educators from around the world gathered at Nyack College's Manhattan campus for the first Christian in English Language Teaching (CELT), a professional conference hosted by Nyack in New York City for 93 registrants. The day included professional networking, energizing sessions, and inspiring plenary addresses. The day concluded with worship led by Rev. Charles Hammond featuring the Nyack College New York City Chorale.

This international group of educators has a primary focus of sponsoring conferences. A few years ago the group decided to hold a conference before the Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) international organization’s annual convention if it were near a Christian college. This year’s TESOL convention was held in Manhattan and the CELT 2008 conference planning committee (Eleanor Pease, conference chair; Peg Bowen, Janice Yeoh, and Marie White) with the support of a “cyber” committee of educators, worked for a year honing the details that produced a successful conference.

Dr. Zoltan Dörnyei, leading psycholinguist and researcher from England’s Nottingham University and committed Christian, was the first plenary speaker. Well known for his work on motivation in language acquisition, Dörnyei presented his recent work on the motivational self-system. Addressing teachers, he explained the three-faceted self system: the ideal second language teaching self, the ought-to teaching self, and the language teaching experience. After explaining how this applies to Christian educators, he suggested that the present-day spread of English and the Christian revival in some parts of the world is no coincidence. He concluded with a quote from his wife: “People need English and people need the Word of God—not necessarily in that order.”

Only God could have orchestrated the complementing of the two plenary addresses. Ms. Lavinia A’Costa coordinator of the Brooklyn Tabernacle’s Downtown Learning Center ESL program used English language students’ stories to give living examples that not only supported her topic, “Affirmation, Restoration, and Perseverance,” but also underscored the message of the first plenary session.

In addition to the plenary addresses, ten sessions were divided among three concurrent session periods. The presenters, representing Christian colleges and missions organizations, spoke on topics such as Activities for Understanding World Religions, Cultural Sensitivity in an Educational Context, and Exploring Euthanasia with Japanese students. A highlight was an optional lunchtime walking tour including Ground Zero and the African Burial Ground.

Undergraduates and graduates from Nyack College and other Christian colleges found that meeting and talking with Dr. Dörnyei after studying his work in the classroom was an unforgettable experience. In the words of a Biola grad student, “Meeting Dr. Dörnyei in person and hearing his plenary address . . . about the [second language] motivational self system was exciting — it was like the words from his articles had come to life.”

Submitted by Dr. Eleanor J. Pease and Prof. Margaret Bowen
ACHIEVEMENTS

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Dr. Fernando Arzola Jr.
Dr. Arzola promoted his most recent publication, “Toward a Prophetic Youth Ministry: Theory and Praxis” during a book tour. His widely diverse audiences have included the 2008 Princeton Forums on Youth Ministry, The Coalition of Urban Youth Workers in NYC, and the Church of God of Prophecy Northeast Region Youth Leaders Conference. Dr. Arzola’s interview by The Christian Manifesto can be viewed on their website, http://thechristianmanifesto.wordpress.com.

Dr. Vilma C. Balmaceda
Dr. Balmaceda was awarded a Kellogg Dissertation Fellowship in May 2008. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Notre Dame after successfully defending her dissertation, “The Human Rights Ombudsman in the Central Andes” in June 2008. Also in June 2008, Prof. Balmaceda led a seminar on “the contribution of Christian lawyers to the consolidation of democracy and the rule of law in Latin America” in Mexico City. Later in the summer Prof. Balmaceda taught a seminar to law school and master’s degree students gathered from Korea, Burundi, India, and the United States on “Human Rights in Developing Countries” at Handong Global University in Pohan, South Korea.

Prof. Kerry A. Callender
New York City campus adjunct Prof. Callender, co-authored the “Developing Argument Skills in Severely Disadvantaged Adolescents in a Residential Correctional Setting,” which was accepted for publication January 2008 in the Applied Development Science Journal. She co-presented on this study at the annual conference of the Association for Psychological Science (APS) in Chicago, IL.

Dr. James P. Danaher
Dept. Chair of Philosophy, Dr. Danaher, spent 11 weeks last summer in New Mexico working with Richard Rohr’s Center for Action and Contemplation. His article, “The Problem with Fundamentalism” was in the March 2008 issue of NewBlackfriars.

Dr. Elaine Lux
Dr. Lux, Deputy Dept. Chair of English, presented a paper, “Christian Testimony Through the Second Story Window: C.S. Lewis’s Till We Have Faces and Shusaku Endo’s Silence” in April 2008 at CCL Southwest at Wingate University in Wingate, NC. She also presented her paper “Detecting God in G.K. Chesterton’s The Man Who Was Thursday” and Muriel Spark’s Memento Mori at Pace University’s professional conference in October 2008.

Prof. Brad McDuffie
Prof. McDuffie presented papers for the Elizabeth Madox Roberts Society in Kentucky and The International Hemingway Society in Kansas City, MO and in Atlanta, GA for the South Atlantic Modern Language Association. His poem “Grace Rituals” was published in the 25th anniversary edition of Aethlon. He published two essays on Elizabeth Madox Roberts and one essay on Richard Aldington and Ernest Hemingway. Two of his poems were also published in the 2008 Shuangwung Review. This past spring he organized a poetry reading featuring H. R. Stoneback, Donald Junkins, and Rosanna Warren on the Rockland campus.

Prof. Jonette O’Kelley Miller
Mrs. Miller, an adjunct professor at the Rockland Campus, contributed to The African American National Biography.

Prof. Darlene Pinkerton
Communications Dept. Head, Prof. Pinkerton’s thesis film Rise Sally Rise was screened at the May 2008 Rivertown Short Film Festival in Nyack, NY.

Dr. Larry Poston
Dr. Poston, Dept. Chair of Religion, published two articles in E-Manet, a Turkish publication, “Missionary Imperialism?” in spring 2007 and “Christ and Culture (Mesih ve Kultur)” in winter 2008. He also published “A Common Word?” His article, “Reflections on Christian-Muslim Dialogue,” appeared in the April 2008 Global Missiology. Dr. Poston and Lindsey Disney (NC’08) co-authored and co-presented a paper entitled, “Life (Or Something Like It): Religious Perspectives on Conception, Envelopment, and Birth” at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Eastern Region, held at McGill University in Montreal, Canada this past spring.

Dr. Laura Spincola
Dr. Spincola will teach part-time in the Psychology Department. She successfully defended her dissertation, “Comprehensive Assessment of the Psychosocial Needs of Children with Mild Hemiplegic Cerebral Palsy” at Columbia University in New York, NY in April 2008.

Prof. Christine Warrington
“Recognition and Redemption in T.S. Eliot’s Marina” was the paper Prof. Warrington presented at the April 2008
ACHIEVEMENTS

Southeast Conference on Christianity and Literature’s 2008 Regional Meeting at Wingate University in Wingate, NC.

COLLEGE OF BIBLE AND CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

Dr. Leonard Kageler
Dept. Chair of Youth Ministry and Christian Education, Dr. Kageler has been named to the editorial advisory board of Youthwork International Magazine.

Dr. R. Steven Notley

Rev. Orlando Rivera, Ph.D.
Rev. Rivera is the new Dept. Chair of Pastoral Ministry. A church planter and entrepreneur in Orlando, FL, Rev. Rivera has a B.S. from SUNY Albany, an M.Div. from Reformed Seminary in Orlando, an M.B.A. from Rollins School of Business in Winter Park, FL, and a Ph.D. from Regent University in Virginia Beach, VA.

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND LEADERSHIP

Prof. Joel Baldomir

Dr. John Laski
“Capitalism & Christianity: A Moral and Ethical Struggle,” is Dr. Laski’s latest book published by PublishAmerica.

Dr. Anita Underwood
Dr. Underwood is the new dean of the School of Business and Leadership. The former director of Nyack’s Master of Science in Organizational Leadership program holds a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in Management and Leadership, and a master’s degree from Meharry Medical College & Fisk University. Her undergraduate studies were completed at Spelman College.

SCHOOL OF HUMAN SERVICES

Rev. Freddy Baez
Rev. Baez, NYC campus adjunct professor for AGSC, was ordained in September 2007 through Eliian Fellowship. In February 2008 he presented “Cultural Diversity: The Clinicians Response to the Religious Hispanic Patient” to the clinical staff in the Department of Psychiatry at North Central Bronx Hospital. Rev. Baez was also officiant at the 1st Annual HIV Memorial Service in May 2008 at Montefiore Hospital in the Bronx.

Prof. Liz Hoffman
Prof. Hoffman is now an adjunct faculty member for Nyack College. She was previously Nyack’s Career Education Coordinator. Prof. Hoffman conducted two career workshops in April and May at the New Life Fellowship in Queens, NY. Approximately 60 students and adult leaders participated.

Prof. Mayra Lopez-Humphreys
Prof. Lopez-Humphreys led a workshop, “Cultural Literacy & Awareness” in July 2008 at Inwood House, a Bronx, NY residential facility that cares for homeless or pregnant teens in foster care. Inwood House is a leader in youth development programs and serves nearly 5,000 young people in New York City and New Jersey.

Dr. Marcia Lucas
Dr. Lucas was named the new director of Alliance Graduate School of Counseling (AGSC) at the New York City campus after serving as Assistant Director of AGSC for the last two years.

Dr. Susan Bucci
Dr. Bucci is the new director of Nyack’s Childhood Education program for both Rockland and Manhattan campuses effective August 2008.
ACHIEVEMENTS

Dr. Andrew Mercurio
Dr. Mercurio (NC ’81) is director of the new Alliance Graduate School of Counseling’s Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT) program. The Nyack alumnus is also a graduate of Asbury Theological Seminary (M.Div.). At Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, he earned his D.Min. and later served there as an adjunct professor and lecturer. He has taught at Bethel Seminary of the East, Philadelphia Biblical University, and Evangelical Theological Seminary. An ordained Christian & Missionary Alliance minister, he has pastored two churches in Boston and Pennsylvania. Dr. Mercurio is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist supervisor in Pennsylvania and a clinical member of The American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy.

Dr. Carol Robles
Dr. Robles is now the Director of the Alliance Graduate School of Counseling, succeeding Dr. Craig Ellison, who retired earlier this year. She was the former associate dean of the Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Mr. Paul Schwartz
Mr. Schwartz, a part-time counselor and recent instructor at the New York City campus of Nyack’s Alliance Graduate School of Counseling, spoke at The Regional Student Affairs Conference held at the City University of New York (CUNY) in May 2008. His topic was “Helping Students in the Now Who Have Been Traumatized in the Past.”

Dr. Donald Skinner
Dr. Skinner is the new Alliance Graduate School of Counseling Internship Coordinator. He has taught as an adjunct in the undergraduate Psychology program on the Rockland Campus for a number of years.

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Dr. Marie Herseth Kenote
Dr. Herseth Kenote was a flute soloist performing and discussing “Norwegian Flute Music” at the June 2007 “Scandinavian Hjemkomst” Festival in Moorhead, MN. In April 2008, she performed J. S. Bach’s “St. John Passion” with the “Bach Collegium” in Fort Wayne, IN and the flute and piccolo with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra in a summer 2008 concert series.

Prof. Joan Mallory
Prof. Mallory along with Nyack's School of Education professor, Dr. Stuart Knapp, were co-presenters at the Annual Conference of the New York State Staff Development Council in Syracuse, NY this past spring. Their interactive presentation was entitled “Middle School Music with ELA and Social Studies: High Interest Activities for Low Achieving Students.”

SCHOOL OF NURSING

Dr. Inseon Hwang
Dr. Hwang joined the Nyack faculty in July 2008 to coordinate development of Nyack’s Nursing Program. She will also be an assistant professor of nursing when the program launches. Dr. Hwang earned her Doctor of Nursing Science degree at Columbia University School of Nursing and both the Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Nursing at Ewha Womans University in Seoul, Korea.

Dr. Teresa Wood
Dr. Wood is the director of the Nursing Program being developed at Nyack. She earned her Ph.D. in Nursing at The Ohio State University and a M.S. in Nursing at Wright State University. A member of Sigma Theta Tau International (an honors society for nurses), Dr. Wood was awarded a Pre-Doctoral Fellowship at the National Institutes of Health, and the Doctoral Student Leadership Award at Ohio State University.

ADMINISTRATORS

Dr. Gwen Parker Ames
Former Director of First Year Studies, Dr. Ames is the new Associate Dean for the Division of Student Success, previously known as the Division of Academic Support Services. Dr. Ames was recognized this fall at the New Jersey School Board Association’s annual conference by New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine for creating an outstanding pre-college program for middle schools in Irvington, NJ. She made a presentation at the conference entitled, “Character Education: The Essential Elements of a Pre-College Program.”

Dr. Richard Gathro
Assistant to the President and Dean of Nyack’s Washington DC Campus, Dr. Gathro was appointed in March 2008 to serve as Advisor for North America to the International Association for the Promotion of Christian Higher Education (IAPCHE). He recently spoke at the Family Research Council’s monthly chapel in Washington, DC. Dr. Gathro is a member of the Georgetown University Interfaith Dialogue on Religion and Higher Education, sponsored by the university’s president, Dr. John J. DeGioia.

Mr. Mark Meehan

Dr. Ron Walborn
Dr. Walborn, who earlier this year was named Dean of ATS and the College of Bible and Christian Ministry has
written a chapter, “Prayer and the Kingdom of God,” in a new textbook, *Giving Ourselves to Prayer: An Acts 6:4 Primer for Ministry*, compiled by Dr. Daniel Crawford. Dr. Crawford is a member of America’s National Prayer Committee. The book, designed for seminary and Christian college students studying for ministry, was published by Prayer Shop Publishing in late spring. Dr. Walborn preached this past summer at Allegheny Center Alliance Church in Pittsburgh, PA and was a speaker at the Spiritual Emphasis Week last fall at Toccoa Falls College in Toccoa Falls, GA.

**STAFF**

**Mrs. Elona Collins**  
Rockland Campus’ Learning Disabilities Coordinator in the Division of Student Success, Mrs. Collins was honored in March 2008 by Eta Chi Lambda, the Rockland County Alumni Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., as a “Rockland County Woman of Distinction – embodying the courage, determination, and steadfastness needed to move history forward.”

**Bob Dickson**, features writer for *The Path* was published in *Chicken Soup for the Father and Son Soul: Celebrating the Bond That Connects Generations*, which was released in March 2008. His entry, “My Dad Was a Comic Book Hero” is included in the section, “When We Were Young.”

**George Hairston**  
Director of Admissions & Marketing at the Nyack DC campus, Mr. Hairston recently addressed the staff of World Vision DC on “Building Dynamic Teams.”

**Mr. Earl Miller**  
Nyack’s Executive Director for Community Relations continues efforts to expand opportunities for the college to collaborate with community groups, schools, churches and businesses. Mr. Miller was appointed to the Board of Directors in September 2008 for the African American Historical Society of Rockland County and in October 2008 for the Nyack Center and Head Start of Rockland. In addition to these recent appointments, he is also an executive member of the Middletown/Sullivan County YMCA Board of Directors and the Industrial Development Authority of Middletown, NY, Board of Directors.

**Mrs. Joan Reid**  
School of Business and Leadership financial aid counselor, Mrs. Reid, was a panelist at Princeton University’s Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety Event in September 2008. Six “Life is a Bike” essays written by Mrs. Reid are included in *The Bicycle Book: Wit, Wisdom & Wanderings*, published by Satya House Publications (Hardwick, MA) in November 2007. Her pen name is Gianna Bellofatto Reid.

**Mr. Kyle Mason Swann**  
An admissions associate at the NYC campus, Mr. Swann has been working to build a college/young adult ministry at the Manhattan Church of Christ. He was invited to speak at the July 2008 Campus Ministry Enrichment Seminar at Harding University in Searcy, AR. His speech entitled, “It’s You and Me Kid: What Are You Going to Do About It?” was about the power of freewill and the power of service.

**Mr. Mick Williams**  
The Assistant Director and Head of Reference Services in the Division of Library Services, Mr. Williams became Chair of the Information Services Committee of the Westchester Academic Library Directors Organization (WALDO) in February 2008. A May 2008 graduate of Nyack’s M.B.A. program with a concentration in finance, he gave the opening greeting at the hooding ceremony held at First Alliance Church in Manhattan. He received the “M.B.A. Academic Achievement Award with Highest Honor.” Mr. Williams presented “The Homepage Redesign Heard Round the World, er, Campus” in June 2008 as a workshop at the Association of Christian Librarians Conference in Quincy, MA.

**2009-2010 TENURED PROFESSORS**

**Dr. David Turk**, Nyack Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs recently announced on behalf of President Michael Scales and the Board of Trustees, that four faculty have been granted tenure beginning with the 2009-2010 year:

**Dr. James Chin**, Alliance Graduate School of Counseling, School of Human Services

**Dr. Stephen Maret**, Department of Psychology, College of Arts and Sciences

**Dr. Stephen Notley**, Biblical and Theological Studies, College of Bible and Christian Ministry

**Dr. Kwi-Ryung Yun**, Chairman, Department of Social Work, School of Human Services

Congratulations to four exceptional educators and academicians.
'47 Corrine (Hendricksen) Sahlberg is proud to share that her daughter, Justice Evelyn Sahlberg Stratton, received the 2008 Ellis Island Medal of Honor on May 10. This medal is awarded to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to our nation. A two-day ceremony was held on Ellis Island for the 100 people chosen from thousands all over the U.S.

'70'S

'74 Dr. Donald N. Hammond was appointed Vice President of External Affairs for The Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF). Since 2005, Don had served as Executive Director of Bridges to Community, a non-profit cultural exchange organization. Before his position at Bridges, he was Vice President of Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD). Dr. Hammond’s previous experience also includes senior positions with World Relief and U.S. Refugee Affairs. He received his B.A. from Nyack College, his M.B.A. from Iona College, and his D.Min. from Westminster Theological Seminary.

'80'S

'81 Rev. Tom Wright received his D.Min. from Ashland Theological Seminary on June 7, 2008. He is a counselor in private practice and a clinical social worker at Mt. Auburn Hospital in Cambridge, MA.

'84 John Howard and Henry Thompson ('83) were involved in the Nyack baseball program together for six years between 1981–88. They played together three years, Henry coached John for one year and they coached together for two years. Now, twenty years later, they’ve teamed up to coach a team for 7-and 8-year-olds in the Zelienople-Harmony Athletic Association. Henry’s daughter, Hannah is the only girl playing in a six-team league. John, a C&MA missionary to Mexico, was on home assignment until July 2008.

'86 Stewart Stemple, currently lives in Hong Kong. He was nominated by his employer in China, Swire, Inc., to carry the Olympic torch. Stewart, a 1986 graduate of Nyack College, was among the few foreigners who carried the torch in China this year.

After obtaining his psychology degree from Nyack, Mr. Stemple earned several masters degrees preparing him for international business work. He moved to Asia in 1990, and presently serves as the Managing Director for Ethos International. He also trains leaders throughout Asia, conducting seminars on HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention through the Global Economic Forum. He organizes projects to build schools and orphanages, and runs an environmental program called the Green Long March.

'88 Raymond Acker received his D.Min. from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in May 2008. He and his wife, Vera, have two sons, Simeon and Ephrem. The Ackers live in Harleysville, PA. Raymond serves as a deacon at St. Philip Orthodox Church in Souderton, PA.

'90'S

'90 Steve Michaels has accepted the appointment as Electronic Services and Systems Librarian at Western Theological Seminary in Holland, MI. He and his family will be moving to western Michigan.

'91 Rev. Sam Stemple, his wife, Jenni (Camp '91), and their four children are serving with the C&MA at Black Forest Academy in Kandern, Germany, where Sam is chaplain.

'00'S

'02 Hannah Guada completed a Master degree in Organizational Leadership from Philadelphia Biblical University.

ENGAGEMENTS/WEDDINGS/ANNIVERSARIES

'47 Mildred Harrod Smith married Dr. Eugene Dotter on January 21, 2008. They reside at Shell Point Retirement Center in Fort Myers, Florida.

'58 Dr. Rexford Boda and his wife, Jean Ruth (Maclearie '57) Boda celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on August 23, 2008. Dr. Boda, 10th president of Nyack College, also celebrated his 50th year class reunion at Nyack’s Homecoming.

'05 Angela Marie Hebert and James Walter Salisbury were married on July 5, 2008 in Saratoga Springs, NY.

BIRTHS/ADDITIONS

'99 Carey (Lindemann) and Matt Penney are thrilled to announce the birth of their daughter. Esther Lorraine was born on August 23, 2007. She was 7 lbs., 14 oz., and 21 inches long.

'00 Elizabeth (Romaine) and Tim Bourquin (attended 97-98) are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Kaitlyn Ainsley. She was born on January 4, 2008 and joins big sister, Alaina.

'00 Kristen Luba and her husband, Weibe ('99), welcomed their daughter Aylo (EYE-low) Anne
'05 Willie McAllister proposed to Abena (Affum '07) at a Senior Night basketball game on February 26, 2005 in Bowman Gym. They were married on August 9, 2008 at Master’s Child Worship Center in District Heights, MD. Will, a pastoral ministry major, is a project manager for Lockheed Martin, the aerospace and technology company headquartered in Bethesda, MD. While at Nyack, Abena, a communications major, did internships at WABC-TV in New York City and with the president of Atlantic Records/Warner Bros. Music Group. She was also on the production staff of “Live With Regis and Kelly,” “Oprah and Friends,” (the satellite radio program) and “New York Viewpoint With Lori Stokes.” Abena is currently a news, traffic, and weather reporter for XM-Satellite Radio in Washington, DC. The McAllisters launched a website, My-Ministry.com on August 8, 2008. The social networking site was designed for Christians who want to share their gifts, talents, and businesses as well as find resources of information and Christian fellowship. Will and Abena encourage Nyack faculty, staff, alumni and students to log on to My-Ministry.com to connect with the world.

Luba born on February 15 this year. She joins big brothers Ephraim and Ezra.

'00 Debbie (Lodema) Rappold and her husband, Ted, welcomed their daughter Alyssa Kathleen Rappold. She arrived on January 17, 2008 weighing in at 7 lbs, 9 oz, and 21 inches.

'05 Helena (Poston) Hewlett and her husband Mathew welcomed Caleb Mathew Hewlett into the world on July 21, 2008. Caleb weighed 7 lbs, 1 oz, and was 20 inches long. The Hewletts were married in June of 2007 on the grounds of Shuman Hall. They currently reside outside Saint Louis, MO with their new baby boy and four very jealous cats.

'07 Nick LaFonte and wife Laura, are proud to announce the birth of their first child. Micah Paul was born on January 28, 2008. He weighed 5 lbs. 11 oz. The LaFontes live in West Nyack, NY. Nick is an admissions counselor for the Alliance Graduate School of Counseling.

'42 Rev. Lester A. Kim passed away on February 7, 2008 at the age of 87. A memorial service was held on February 16, 2008 at Allen & Allen Funeral Home in Thomasville, GA. He is survived by his wife, Faye Seymour Kim; son, Ron Kim; daughters, Pat Kim Rupinski, Beth Kim Baker, and Kathy Seymour Veltman; 9 grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren and 3 great great grandchildren.

'52 Rev. O. Gene Bartman went to be with the Lord on June 24, 2008 at the age of 81 after a courageous, but short battle with pancreatic cancer. He graduated from the Missionary Training Institute (now Nyack College) after completion of his service with the U.S. Navy and attending Kings College. Gene started his ministry in the Western PA District of the C&MA at the dual charge of Beccaria and Coal Run for three years; Mars for five years; Union City for eight and a half years; and Altoona for twenty-two and a half years. Under his ministry, all of the churches were involved in building projects. He and his wife also had a music ministry wherever they served. While pastoring in Western PA, he served on the License and Ordination Committee for twelve years in various roles. While in Altoona, PA, he was heard for over twenty-two years on the Alliance Hour broadcast. When he retired, he and his wife, Sarah, moved to Anderson, IN. He then became the assistant pastor of the West Cross Alliance Church in Anderson and served for seven years. Gene is survived by his two sons, Jonathan (and wife, Becky) and Mark (and wife, Sherri); 5 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren; and three

HOME GOINGS

'39 Ruth M. (Hollinger) Nicholson went to be with the Lord on January 20, 2008. She married Melvin E. Nicholson ('39) on December 24, 1934 and they both attended Nyack. Following graduation, they served C&MA churches in Hanover, Curwensville, Aliquippa, Upper Darby and First Alliance in New Castle, PA. After retiring in 1982, they maintained their residence in New Castle, where Melvin took an interim ministry at Clifton Flat from 1989 to 1999. On December 26, 1999, the Lord called Melvin home. The two had been married for 65 years. Ruth faithfully supported her husband in his ministry and was actively involved in the work of the church, especially in the Women’s Missionary Prayer Fellowship. In her later years she mentored younger pastors’ wives. She is survived by two sons, Don E. and David A.; one daughter, Lois Eyler; 10 grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren, and 2 great-great grandchildren. She is also survived by two sisters, Bertha Bottenfield and Esther Kapp. She was also predeceased by a son, Dalton.

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'46 Alice (Netzband) Boyer passed away on April 3, 2008 at the age of 83. Her husband, Rev. Paul L. Boyer ('46), who she met at Nyack College, passed away exactly two months later on June 3, 2008. The two met when she was accidentally given the wrong dorm room and he was sent over to help her move. Paul would say, “I took one look, and worked at making her my wife.” They were married not long after on August 11, 1945.

Mrs. Boyer was a principal for Lima, OH area schools for several years. She was a member of Cable Road Alliance Church in Lima, OH and was active in the American Association of University Women and in several associations for educators, including the Retired Teachers Association. She also received degrees from Taylor University and the University of Dayton. Following her retirement, Alice and Paul traveled the world on missions trips. Survivors include her son, Richard Alan Boyer; her daughter, Cheryl Elizabeth Waterman; her brother, Richard Alan Netzband; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by a brother and six sisters.

Rev. Boyer was an ordained minister of the C&MA and pastored in Alliance churches in Ohio, West Virginia and Indiana, as well as in Mennonite churches in the Lima, OH area. He had also been an industrial arts teacher at Bath, Wapakoneta, and Paulding schools and a guidance counselor at Wapakoneta High School. Following his retirement, he taught woodworking classes at Ford Motor Co. Lima Engine Plant for a short time. He was a lifetime member of the Ohio Education Association, the National Education Association, and several other education groups. A member of Epsilon Pi Tau and Phi Delta Kappa, he was a charter member of Centennial Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, and served six years as chaplain and a year as second vice president with the Ohio State Society. He was awarded several medals, including the highest honor from a state society, the Patriot Medal for commendable service. He was also a leader in Concerned Ohio Retired Teachers. After graduating from Nyack, he also received his bachelor’s degree from Bluffton College and his master’s degree in education from Bowling Green State University, and completed further graduate courses at the University of Dayton. He was a lifelong woodworker and built three homes for his family through the years. Survivors include his son, Richard Boyer; his daughter, Cheryl Waterman; two brothers, Robert Boyer and Donald Boyer; a sister, Rachel Hager; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

'65 Philip Renicks, Ed.D. retired as the vice president of international ministries, from the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) on August 1, 2007. Joyce (Armitage ’64) Phil’s wife and executive assistant, retired at the same time. In 1965 following graduation from Nyack, Phil and Joyce moved back to Ohio to begin careers in teaching.

In 1975 they followed God’s call to missionary service at the Alliance Academy in Quito, Ecuador. After nine years as missionary educators at the Alliance Academy, Phil and Joyce were appointed by the ACSI board to begin ACSI’s Office of International Ministries. They opened an office in the Philippines, South Africa, Paraguay, Brazil, Dominican Republic, Romania, France, and Indonesia. Phil says, “Joyce and I praise God for trusting us with His work and thank the leadership of ACSI for giving us the opportunity of a lifetime for 22 years of service to Christian schools outside the United States, in the first year, 23 international Christian schools in 19 countries joined ACSI. The office in Alabama moved outside Phil and Joyce’s home as new staff came on board. By 1990, the first ACSI office outside North America was established in Guatemala. In 1989, Phil was invited to Romania, a visit that resulted in the opening of Christian schools in Romania. ACSI opened its Europe office in Budapest, Hungary, in 1991, followed by the opening of the ACSI office in the former Soviet Union in 1992.”

ACSI was one of the founding organizations of the CoMission in 1991. Phil and Joyce traveled in Russia and Ukraine to work with teachers. In 1996, the international office moved to ACSI’s new Colorado Springs, CO headquarters, and Phil became the vice president of international ministries. As a result of Phil’s visionary work, ACSI now has regional offices in the Philippines, South Africa, Paraguay, Brazil, Dominican Republic, Romania, France, and Indonesia. Phil says, “Joyce and I praise God for trusting us with His work and thank the leadership of ACSI for giving us the opportunity of a lifetime for 22 years of service to Christian schools around the world. God has blessed us with a staff of 85 as we serve the needs of more than 1,300 schools with 311,250 students in 105 countries. We have had the privilege of traveling the world as God’s ambassadors to Christian schools, but the greatest privilege is in meeting and knowing the heroes of the faith who serve Christian schools in the far-flung corners of the world.” Phil and Joyce have four children and nine grandchildren. Now residents of Franklin, TN, the couple serve as consultants to Christian schools in the international context.

brothers. He was predeceased by his wife of 58 years, Sarah, his parents, three brothers, and one sister.

'57 Rev. Richard R. Walker passed away on April 9, 2008. He graduated from Nyack with a B.S. in theology. It was at Nyack that he met Marilyn Townsend ('57). They were married on June 4, 1955 and served in their first church assignment in Port Washington, Long Island. Their subsequent pastorates included: Audubon and Harrison, NJ; Baltimore, MD; Glens Falls and Medina, NY; West Newton, PA; and Iliion, NY. Richard retired from full-time ministry after serving in the C&MA for 42 years. Besides his wife of almost 53 years, he is survived by two sons, Thomas Richard Walker and James Stewart Walker; a daughter, Onna Beth Roberts; 9 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

'62 Deanna (Durmer) Turner, 69, passed away at home on April 4, 2008. A long-time resident of Barnegat, NJ, Deanna taught in the Barnegat school system for 22 years and retired from the position of guidance counselor at the Russell O. Brackman School in June 2000. After graduating from Nyack, she completed her graduate studies for teaching and counseling at Georgian Court College, Lakewood, NJ. Deanna was known as a strong woman of faith and rendered outstanding service for her Lord in local congregations. Her most recent affiliation was at Bayside Chapel in Barnegat. She was predeceased by her parents Charles and Lillian Durmer. Surviving are her husband of 46 years, Art, a retired teacher from Berkeley Township School District; her son, Duncan; her daughter, Aileen and her husband Rick Reynolds and their girls Avila and Bryce; and sister, Beverly and her husband Del Park and their children Colleen, Heather and Del. An encouraging mother figure for many young men and women in her community, she helped raise a dozen foster children.
'97 Alton “Ernie” Armoogam passed away on October 14, 2008. Of this unexpected Nyack community loss, Nyack and ATS President Dr. Michael Scales said, “He was one of my heroes.” Loved by students, faculty, and staff, he served in Student Development as director of student programs and was a satellite housing residence director. He was also Nyack’s head coach for women’s softball.

After ending his employment at Nyack because of health reasons, Ernie continued his calling to work with young people as director for Mont Lawn Camp in Bushkill, PA. Most recently he worked as a monitor and a coach at Clear Run Intermediate School in the Pocono Mountain School District in Pennsylvania. The Clear Run School community became endeared to him, offering their love and support in the final challenging months of his life.

A homegoing service was held in Padlington Hall on the Nyack Rockland County campus. The homily was shared by Dr. Ron Walborn. Special tributes were paid by his sister, Barbara Febus, Dr. Michael Scales, Rev. Charles Galbreath, Rev. Angela Ortiz, and Prof. Miguel Sanchez. Contributions in memory of Ernie Armoogam can be sent to Nyack College, 1 South Blvd., Nyack, NY.

'99 Gail (Gessner) Mulligan passed away on June 3, 2008 at the age of 57. She attended Winona State University in 1992, in pursuit of her dream to become a music teacher. She moved to Duchess County in 1994 and continued her studies at Nyack College as a music education major, graduating at age 48. She was a music teacher in the Poughkeepsie, Glenham, and Beacon school districts, all in New York. In the summer 2007, she completed her master’s degree in reading comprehension from Mount St. Mary College in Newburgh, NY. On August 1, 1998, she married Gerard B. Mulligan (’85 ATS) in Clinton Corners, NY. In addition to her husband, she is survived by her daughter, Rebecca Evans of Minneapolis; a sister, Gwen (Scott) Williams of Minnesota; and four brothers, Gregg, Glenn, Gary and Gordon (Julie Seiler-Meyers), all of Minnesota. Other survivors include two grandsons, Joshua and Isaiah. She was preceded in death by her parents, Helen Meyers and Glenn Meyers.

TELLING THEIR STORIES

1893 Estella Finch has been the interest of a group known as “The Society for Commemorating the “Mother of Yokosuka” in Kanagawa, Japan for many years. Mrs. Ryoko Umino and her husband, Motoo, visited the Nyack Rockland campus in 2005 to explore the educational roots of Ms. Finch, who became an iconic missionary in Japan. This past spring Mrs. Umino mailed copies of her recently published biography of Estella Finch, a graduate of what was then called the Missionary Training Institute. The courageous native of Sun Prairie, WI was so dedicated to her call to the people of Japan that she changed her name to Hoshida Mitsuyo. The book, which has not yet been translated into English, includes portions of Ms. Finch’s diaries and letters, and her analysis of Psalm 45.

'63 Patricia Groff will be the subject of a chapter in the book, God Stories edited by Jennifer Skiff and published by Harmony Books, an imprint of Random House this fall. The original piece was written by Lawrence Groff, Patricia’s brother. Following her graduation from Nyack, Ms. Groff went to Indonesia to serve as a missionary-

teacher at the Bandung Alliance School. She lost her life just sixty days after her arrival. A television series based on the book is being developed. More information on the book can be found at www.godstories.com.

'04 Luis Velez is pictured on the cover collage of My City, My God, a New International Readers Version (NirV) of the New Testament published this spring by the International Bible Society. The paperback publication created for urban youth outreach, includes several riveting personal testimonies, including one by Luis. In 1996, along with thirteen young people ages 14-22, he co-founded and started “Generation Xcel,” a summer day camp and after school center for the youth from the Lower East Side of Manhattan. He says, “It was really exciting to me because I was investing in the youth of the same community that I was born and raised in. So as I became more involved in community and youth development, I was introduced to many other youth organizations. In 1999, I was given an opportunity to write an article for a magazine called Youth Walk. Following publication of the article for Youth Walk, and other coverage of his involvement in youth development, Velez was invited to write a testimonial in 2007 for My City, My God.

Luis is currently the Site Director of the Salvation Army GAINS (Greater Academic Incentives to Nurture Success) program in Spring Valley, NY and also works with TAF (Training All Facets, tafbootcamp.com).
JEFFREY PAUL GARCIA
BIBLE SCHOLAR
RIGHTLY DIVIDING
THE WORD OF TRUTH

by Bob Dickson
By his own admission, 2005 summa cum laude Nyack graduate, Jeff Garcia is usually a "glass is half empty" kind of guy. So when the New York University graduate student received a phone call from Dr. Lawrence H. Schiffman, chair of the Hebrew and Judaic Studies Department, he feared the worst.

"I was completely shocked because he had never called me," Garcia says. "But I was having some problems in Modern Hebrew. I thought he was calling me for that." Dr. Schiffman requested a meeting with Garcia in his office, which only had never called me," Garcia says. "But I was completely shocked because he wanted to be a Bible scholar. I wanted to know as much (about the Bible) as I could."

Garcia hopes to infect others with the passion he caught at Nyack. But first things first. The newly named McCracken Fellow still has some more learning to do. NYU’s doctoral program will take years – about four to complete the course work and exams, and another year or two to write the dissertation. Realistically, he is looking at a six to seven-year commitment.

"My goal is to teach and to write," he says. "I’d like the opportunity to teach the way Dr. Notley taught us … I see my life going in that direction. I just want to be used by God."

According to Notley, that desire is part of a perfect plan. "These students whose hearts and minds have been touched by the Lord will be the next generation of teachers," he says. "They will train our pastors, missionaries, and youth workers . . . Imagine it. Each one of these young scholars has 20, 25, even 30 years of teaching ahead of them.

"Nyack College, as the most ethnically diverse Christian college in America and positioned in arguably one the most important cities in the world, has a unique opportunity to impact the church in this century in a manner that numbs the imagination."

As for Jeff’s writing endeavors, he will soon see his first work published in a book. It’s a paper he wrote while working with Dr. Notley on a project in 2007 for the prestigious Society of Biblical Literature. His proposal was accepted and he flew to San Diego, CA to present his paper at the Society’s annual conference.

Garcia and his wife, Maureen (also a Nyack New York City alum), are praising God for His faithfulness and His provision. Clearly, He is working out a plan in their lives. She is considering options for graduate study … not that she doesn’t have her hands full already. According to Jeff, she plays a key role in his academic career. "Maureen has her degree in English," he says. "So she’s first on my list of editors for my papers!"
Conveniently located between the U.S. Capitol and Union Station, the Nyack College DC (NCDC) extension is located in the Hall of the States Building where many of our country’s state officials have offices. Just six years old, the site is flourishing under the leadership of an administrative team headed by Assistant to the President & Dean, Dr. Richard Gathro.

Dr. Gathro, former Executive Vice President of the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities (CCCU) is a trailblazing bridge-builder in Washington, which is a true capital gain for Nyack as ongoing outreach to the community and the list of strategic liaisons steadily grows.

There’s more to the work at hand than dispensing degrees. As the vision for DC continues to unfold, so does self-assessment. “We ask ourselves regularly, ‘How do we apply and live out the core values of Nyack?’ and, ‘What does it mean for Nyack College to be in this city at this time and place?’,” Gathro explains. “In light of these questions, we are looking at what we can be doing in the world of public policy. We are also moving forward on exploring and developing new programs in urban community development and continuing education for area pastors.”

Another key objective that Dr. Gathro spearheads is establishing and enhancing relationships with community groups and organizations in the private and public sector. Some of the groups that have convened at NCDC include the Russian-American Christian University, Urban Bridge Builders, the Government Relations Committee for the Association of Christian Schools International, the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities (CCCU) Communications Department and its Commission for Advancing Intercultural Competencies, which Nyack President Michael Scales chairs. Campus administrators have also met with community development leaders and key legislative officials. The Nyack extension site has also hosted an internship program for the Murdock Charitable Trust in cooperation with the Washington Institute for Faith, Vocation & Culture.

**CAPTIONS Lambda Mu Nu**

**CAMPUS COLLABORATIONS**

Not only does the DC campus reach out to its neighbors in government and in the surrounding communities, but the 254 miles between New York and Washington, DC does not hinder collaborative efforts between Nyack’s campuses. Case in point is a recent trip to DC for New York City campus social work majors.

With the assistance of DC’s Associate Dean Patricia Johnson, a dozen students and New York City social work professor Mayra Lopez-Humphreys met with Ed Cooney and Dr. Margaret Zeigler, of the Congressional Hunger Center (CHC), located in the Hall of the States Building. The CHC is a nonprofit anti-hunger organization whose Board of Directors is co-chaired by Rep. Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO) and Rep. James P. McGovern (D-MA). Their bipartisan efforts to end hunger puts them in dialogue with the president and other elected government officials, as well as with groups in the private and public sectors, to work on federal nutrition programs and policies.

Legislative staff, Zachary Farley and Jillian Youngblood, in the office of New York Congresswoman Jerrold Nadler, who represents the Eighth Congressional District where Nyack’s Manhattan campus is located, also met the students to discuss social welfare issues that impact the state and the city of New York.

If word of mouth influences response to Nyack’s presence in Washington, DC, its students will be among its strongest promoters. The following are comments from Nyack DC students and alumni:

**Washington’s Best Kept Secret? Not For Long!**

“I thoroughly appreciate the educational and Christian experience that has been presented to me at the DC campus of Nyack College. Never before have I felt so loved by my teachers in a Christ-like manner. There is an underlying support network beyond any other. Because of the opportunity for quality education at Nyack I have been able to succeed in a competitive job market.”

Nicole Williams
Current Organizational Management student

“Nyack is an educational gem within the metropolitan area. The faculty actually facilitates learning, fun, and more importantly...goal attainment.”

Jeffrey Logan
Alumnus of Nyack DC Master of Science in Organizational Leadership and Bachelor of Science in Organizational Management

“I have spent many years starting and stopping my education. I’ve attended many universities in many cities (including overseas), but with the support system at Nyack, the affordable prices and the convenient scheduling, I have been able to fulfill my dream of completing my education. All of our professors are highly qualified academically and in most cases working in the field that they teach. Our information is current.”

Vivian Hughes
Alumna of the Bachelor of Science in Organizational Management
Nyack College is...

ACADEMICALLY excellent

GLOBALLY engaged

intentionally DIVERSE

PERSONALLY transforming

SOCIALLY relevant

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• MBA in Business Administration or Accounting
• MS in Childhood Education, Childhood Special Education and Inclusive Education

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During last year’s Phonathon, Nyack College and Alliance Theological Seminary alumni, family, and friends made a good call. Gifts to the Student Success Fund generated $56,653 for scholarships, upgrading classroom equipment, supporting faculty development, and other critical needs.

Our 2009 Phonathon will be conducted February 23 through March 12. Please take a few moments to speak with the Nyack or ATS student who calls you and prayerfully consider making a gift. If you’d like to give today before you’re contacted by one of our students, call 1-866-721-7946 or visit us at www.nyack.edu/giving.